The Mat-Su Monitor

Volume 1 Issue 1 | The Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College, Palmer, Alaska | September 30, 1993

WELCOME TO FALL!

The staff of the Mat-Su Monitor welcomes all students, new and old, for the fall semester and wishes everybody a successful and interesting term. We invite everyone, students, faculty, and staff members, to submit letters to the editor, positive criticism, articles, essays, and short stories or poems for publication herein.

As you can see with this issue, we will have regular columns by various authors and we would be glad to print guest columns on any subject in reasonably good taste. Please feel free to drop your submissions in the Student Government or Student Newspaper Mailboxes.

STOLEN PAINTING

The Art Department of Mat-Su College suffered a major theft last spring semester when a painting was stolen from the Annual Student Art Show.

Kim Donofrio's watercolor, "Mountain Communion," was stolen on a Friday afternoon during the lunch hour. The two foot by three foot painting had already been sold, so the artist was forced to replace it as the painting was not recovered.

The Art Department is asking everyone to help keep an eye out for persons acting suspiciously around the works of art in the shows in our Mezannine.

ARE WE THERE YET?

As of the end of September, the new addition is about 25% completed.

FLOWERS FLOURISH

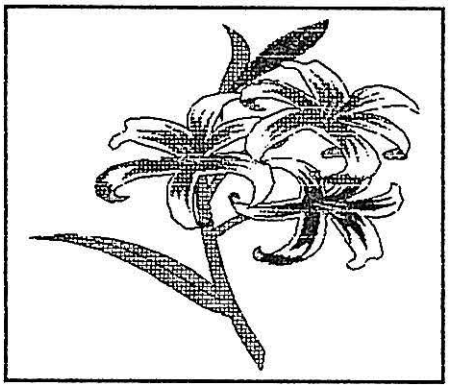
All the beautiful flowers that we see at the Mat-Su campus are there because of the efforts of Barb Carney, our Financial Aid Officer. Every spring, Barb picks out the flowers from a local greenhouse, plants the starts around the buildings, and tends the flowers until freezeup. Various other staff members of the college such as Hannah Leary, Roger Gossett, Eric Blomskog, Joe Muth, Doug Green, Cindy Wing, and Gayle Wolf assist Barb in her pleasant botanical task.

Although the college pays for the plants and the grounds crew sees to watering them during the summer, Barb and her helpers volunteer their time and energy for the sake of getting their thumbs green and because of the pride they take in their workplace.

An accomplished and dedicated gardener, Barb started the plantings several years ago when she saw a need to fill up the nooks and crannies and empty dirt spaces around the school with flowers. Her work is well appreciated by the faculty and students who give her many compliments on the colorful results.

Some of the annuals that do very well here are calendulas, canary bird vines, and pansies. Barb has also established roses, perennial bachelor buttons, perennial daisies, sweet williams, pinks, and mock orange shrubs, as well as the Woodland Garden with the fountain.

She notes that in keeping with the the unusually hot summer, first frost at the campus is late this fall. Words of wisdom from a great gardener? *"Brown knees make pink posies."* **THANK YOU,** Barb Carney, for helping to make our campus a more pleasant place to work and learn. ---*C.E. Long*



FLOAT WINS

Mat-Su College won third place with the ferris wheel float in the State Fair Parade this August. The float was constructed with the help of Glenn Massay, Mark and Cameron Ewing, Al Okeson, Ed and Kevin Garnica, Theron Bair, and Marla Miles. All the materials were donated by Homesteader's Hardware and Spenard Builder's Supply.

FINANCIAL AID NEWS

Barbara Carney, the Financial Aid Officer, reports that she has over thirty different scholarships available at this time. The scholarships are tailored to a

SEE AID PAGE 3

Inside This Issue

* **Wal Mart Is Coming. Are We Ready?**
* **Dean Massay, His Life and Times**
* **Important Notices for Everyone**
* **Theron Bair Column--Computers and the VAX**
* **Math Club--*THE CUBE***

OPINION

OUR TIME HAS COME.....By Mark Ewing

You better not pout, you better not cry, you better not shout, I'm telling you why--Walmart is coming to town. Unlike the spirit of Christmas, where giving is the total joy, but similar to the commercialism of Santa Claus, Wasilla's new Walmart will soon be a reality. From my view point, it's really a major transition that has made it apparent that Wasilla is no longer just another small town. With the opening of Safeway, Carr's, and Payless, we still seemed to retain our rural setting. However, with the construction of the new chain store "goliath", along with the "formal writers" enlisted to form a police force that we were so proudly annointed with this past summer, Wasilla is now exactly what a lot of us moved out here to get away from--a "city". At least we didn't have to sell off a part of the college Agricultural lands to please the mega giant as Fairbanks has been asked to do.

It will be interesting to see just how many of the small local businesses that have stuck it out through boom and bust and feast or famine will be forced to fall along the wayside like highway litter. Some people will always say, "Let the chips fall where they may." Others will argue that this is progress. A few might even view it as just another "Faustian bargain" disguised to appear as a blue light special.

DEAN MASSAY — PART I
by Mark Ewing

Many times you've probably walked by his office and wondered exactly what type of person is Dr. Glenn Massay? Or you've seen him quietly walking the hallways, always with a smile, waving to anyone that grants him the same response.

The first time I had a chance to listen to him speak was when he addressed the Student Government Budget Committee in the cafeteria some months back. As we were trying to mold the budget from a few lump sums into a workable compromise, in walked Glenn. The questions started flying like bird shot at a turkey shoot, ranging from the time frame on the new building completion deadline, to when we might be able to obtain four year status as a learning institution. In a relaxed, controlled, professional manner each question was answered in a courteous down to earth approach, with no detail left unexplained. Not once did he attempt to create superiority by emphasizing the obvious imbalance in our educational levels and he always spoke with a sense of encouragement in his voice, regardless of how moronic the line of questioning may have seemed.

It was soon after that chance encounter that I decided to inquire more in-depth into the life of this man who seemed to create a feeling of sensitivity without constructing a narrow bridge between the administration and the student population. I've yet to walk by his office when he's on campus and see his door closed; I truly believe that the open door symbolizes his attitude on how he conducts his life.

SEE DEAN PAGE 5

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Mark Ewing--Editor
Carolyn E. Long--Assistant Editor
Michelle McGehee--Staff Secretary
Theron Bair--Columnist

AID

variety of majors and disciplines such as nursing, aviation, agriculture, and art and some are for part time students as well as full time students. Deadlines to apply for the scholarships vary. Some of the scholarships are brand new on the market, so if you are interested in financial assistance, please see Ms. Carney.

FACULTY SHOW

The Mat-Su College Faculty Art Show, which opened in the Mezannine at the beginning of the fall semester and which will run through mid-October, consists of the works of the current faculty of the MSC Art Department. The show exhibits a wide variety of styles and media, although overall, none of the works are wildly experimental.

Almost all of the pieces have soft, muted colors in keeping with the moods of autumn. The themes of the works are quiet and understated as well. These qualities provide the fully engaged viewer with the opportunity to enjoy the discovery of the artistic subtleties and sly touches of humor that are to be found in the show.

The carvings of painted wood by Pat Miller and Cooper's "The Throne" are the only true sculptural pieces, but both David Edlefson's gold pan\yarn "Egypta" and Marilynn Chevalier's quilted and tassled "Gaudy Knight" are semi-sculptural in structure and effect.

Fiber is well represented by Ms. Chevalier's "Gaudy Knight," a dyed, quilted, knitted, and tassled wall hanging; by Vicki Cole's tufted mini-tapestry "Untitled"; and by Brigitte Cooper's vest of woven plaid material, and her wall hangings "Peppermint Islands" and "Untitled." The knitted brass and silver wire brooches by Pat Candler are an experimental crossover technique in the fiber area.

The paintings and mixed media include Shari Williams' traditional watercolors "Little Su River" and "Snoqualmie Falls Depot," Richard Benson's oil and mixed media painting "Is It Animals or Is It Art?," and Ms. Chevalier's collage "A Bird's Eye View" and her oil painting "T Square."

The show is well worth a lengthy perusal. An appreciative viewer will be amply rewarded by such things as finding the "eye" in "Egypta," by pondering the juxtaposition of the laws of gravity and artistic humor in "The Throne," and by enjoying the lovely colors in both "Gaudy Knight" and "Peppermint Islands."

Most of the works are for sale. For additional information, please contact the Art Department of MSC.

--C.E. Long

WASILLA MUSEUM OPENS SERIES

The Dorothy Page Museum in Wasilla announces the beginning of a new series: the Program of Special Exhibits for Artists and Craftspeople. The series will provide a new forum for local and regional artists, as well as a wider variety of exhibits for residents and visitors. There will be three or four shows a year, each featuring one or more different artists.

The series opens on October 10, 1993, with an exhibition of jewelry by Pat Davis Candler, a local metalsmith and teacher at Mat-Su College, and will run through November 10. The show will highlight Ms. Candler's current work in the adaption of textile techniques to metalworking.

The opening for the show is at 4:00 PM. The public is invited to attend and support the Valley's artists. For more information, please call the Museum at 373-9071.

MSC GETS VIDEO GAMES

The Student Government anounces the installation of a video game machine available for the recreational use of students. It is currently located in the back corner of the cafeteria and features four different games. Use of the money earned from the games is still in debate by the Student Government.

JURIED SHOW

The All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art will run from January 23 through March 13, 1994. Slides of submissions are due by October 1, 1993. Only Alaskan artists are elegible and artists are limited to four entries. Juror for this show is Neal Benezra, Chief Curator of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.. Please contact the Anchorage Museum at 343-4326 for additional information.

➡ VOTE !

On October 5th, there will be elections in both Wasilla and the Mat-Su Borough. Please do your civic duty and go vote, no matter what your convictions on the particular issues. Wasilla will elect a mayor, two council seats, and decide on a referendum on the sales tax, while the Borough will have assorted assembly and school board seats up for grabs, a vote on a Borough-wide sales tax, and a recall election for Cathy Curtis, a member of the School Board.

Lloyd Rudd, a student at MSC, is running for Assembly Seat 7. Good luck, Lloyd!

REMEMBER...IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT.

DEAR SAMANTHA

Dear Samantha,

I am new at this college. What do you suggest that I do to help me find new friends?

Sincerely,
Lonely in the Halls

Dear Lonely in the Halls,

Many new students find themselves in the same situation that you are in. It's to be expected. Don't feel too lost. The transition will be slow but sure. To

SEE DEAR PAGE 5

The Cube is written by Tim Kimbrough.

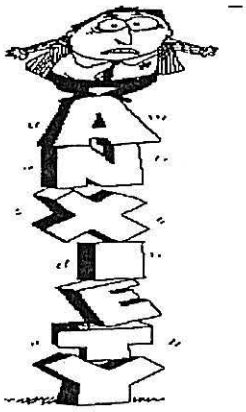
THE CUBE

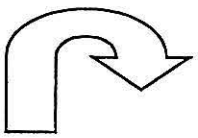
The Cube is a publication of the Mat-Su Math Club. It will appear in the Mat-Su Monitor on a regular basis with the intent to help advance, and hopefully amuse, the reader with mathematics and its ability to answer the unanswerable.

Now, for a short explanation of how this whole thing works. The problems for each week's article will be gathered from math instructors, students, and the home of all knowledge and other weird things, BOOKS! The solutions to each weekly question will be hermetically sealed in a used cookie jar somewhere in Dr. Changs' office until the next issue of the Mat-Su Monitor. This gives those interested, about two weeks to do their thing with the numbers.

To be fair to all, the questions will be broken down into three catagories; Mild, Medium, and Hot. The final BRAIN TEASER question is for the whole of humanity to try and answer. GOOD LUCK !!!! Tim

A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:
" Do not worry about your troubles in math, I can assure you my are far greater."
Albert Einstein:





Here is the brain teaser: Who was the Italian Mathematician and Physicist that helped Chemistry?

HOW GOOD ARE YOU?

MILD:

A grocer needs to make a 25 lb mixture of coffee worth $3.52 lb. If Brand A cost $3.80 lb and Brand B costs $3.30, how many pounds of each kind should he use?
(I got this one from J.B.)

MEDIUM:

Suppose you have just bought a tower for a radio antenna which is 10 meters tall. You want to secure the tower with three guy wires which will be located 6 meters from the base. How much guy wire should you buy?
(HINT: Think of the P word.)

HOT:

At one (1) count per second, how many days would be required to count to 1,000,000? (P.T. & Dave O. made me do this one, don't you just loveeeeee word problems? NOT!!)

DEAN

When I first stopped Dr. Massay in the hallway and requested a little bio information so I could complete this story, we both had to laugh (apparently he took the time to read the newsletter I'd roughly pounded out the last few months of spring semester). He immediately shuffled me to his office, reached into a drawer, and produced a three page resume, then promptly ran me off a copy, to my surprise and delight.

Since this was the first time I had actually set foot in his office, I could not stop admiring the vast collection of campaign buttons that adorn a framed oak enclosure on what could be considered his unseen wall. This collection was joined by an equally impressive array of political bumper stickers from days gone by also framed in oak. It was not until I returned home that evening and had a chance to review his resume that I made the connection between this man and his fine collection of the American political process.....Tune in next time for Part Two of The Doc or He Runs the College, She the Iditarod.

BEAR STEALS CHECKPOINT

Marion Sindorf, a metalworking student at Mat-Su College, reports that during an Alaskan Hunt Club's Point to Point Knik River Treasure Hunt on September 19th, a bear was strongly suspected of stealing the candy markers used to indicate a checkpoint for the Treasure Hunt. The approximately twenty-five mile long ride had a few people manning checkpoints, but all the others were marked with bags of candy. Riders had to fetch back pieces of the candy to prove that they had passed through the checkpoints.

The bag of candy at checkpoint one-half mile Jim Creek on the sand dunes at the edge of the trees was empty and shredded to pieces. Riders reported sighting numerous fresh bear tracks in the area. The winners of the ride got lead ropes for each member of the winning team, but some lucky bear got an unexpected bedtime treat this fall.

DEAR

beat the blues, you can sign up for clubs, join Student Government, or simply just introduce yourself to some of your classmates. I think you'll be surprised at how friendly everyone is.

Sincerely,
Samantha

Dear Samantha is available for advice or if you just need to get something off your chest. I'm here!!!!

LITERARY ITEMS

Bite My Tongue

The thoughts that cross
Of words aloft
I must at once
bite my tongue

The views and hues
of friends we choose
To trust I must
bite my tongue

To judge of love
not embrace of
a thirst to first
bite my tongue

When care to dare
to be aware
A thought to not
bite my tongue

---Sam Blumenstein

Sam Blumenstein is a third year student majoring in art and computer science.

JOKE

Q. How many Wordsworths does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Just one, but the bulb has to be organically grown.

NOTICES

The **MATH CLINIC** is now open for business. The mathematically perplexed may come to Room 212 OLB on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 5:00 PM for help and gentle persuasion of the possibilities of living through story problems and the like. Free tutors on duty.

NOONSINGERS meet every Tuesday and Thursday at noon in Room 108. Everyone on campus is welcome to attend. You do not have to be able to carry a tune to join in, but accurate pitches are appreciated.

The next **STUDENT GOVERNMENT** meeting will be on October 1st at 5:30 in Room 126.

GEO CLUB will meet on the last Tuesday of every month at high noon in Room 124. *"Put the world in your grasp."*

THE ART CLUB will meet on October 18th at 6:00PM in The Art Room. Plans for student shows will be discussed.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER** is located in Room 126 and is open six days a week for students to drop by and receive friendly assistance with English and Math problems. There are computers available with various helpful programs, two video monitors, math videos, and some handy reference material. The **LRC** is an excellent quiet place to study and is staffed with tutors.

The **LRC** is pleased to announce a series of special, *free* **WORKSHOPS.**

October 1, 1993, 1-3 PM in Room 212:
MINDING YOUR P'S, Q'S, AND S'S
(paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing)
Instructor: LORI ATROPS

October 15, 1993, 1-3 PM in Room 211:
SENTENCE COMBINING AND PUNCTUATION
Instructor: VIOLA HARRISON

November 5, 1993, 1-3 PM in Room 211:
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF READING YOUR TEXTBOOKS
Instructor: ELIZABETH FALLON

So you want to use the computer

By Theron L. Bair

Caveat: Some of the material contained herein can appear to be talk-downish. Don't be insulted or put off by it; believe me, it's FAR easier to understand it this way instead of a long stream of technobabble (whose main purpose, I suspect, is to confuse people and hold them at the mercy of their own pride and ignorance). Famous last words: trust me.

Now, you're wondering: "How do I do this stuff with the computer?" It's only fair to help you, since I got you into this. So, every week (or whenever the paper prints), I'll try to have a column in it. This will help you find out just EXACTLY what a VAX is, how to use it, how to move a margin, format a disk, and how to trash an icon. Each printing I'll cover one topic, helping you understand how to do all this "neat stuff." So, without further ado...

Let's begin with the current computer focus: the VAX. A VAX is a brand of big computer manufactured by Digital Equipment Coporation (often abbreviated DEC). VAXes are pretty powerful, though not quite as powerful as some other big computers, like Crays. We have three easily accessible VAX computers in the University system: one is located at Juneau, one at Anchorage, and one at Fairbanks. The one at Juneau has been designated ACAD1, the one at Anchorage ACAD2, and the Fairbanks computer has been designated AURORA (although it can still be referenced as ACAD3). On the VAX, you can do many things, such as get newsgroups (which contain discussions on almost everything), connect to other computers for realtime games, find programs for your computer, and either talk through mail messages or live "see-it-as-they-type-it" connections to almost anyone, anywhere in the world. In addition, there are many programs that you can use on the VAX, such as a symbolic math analysis program, compression utilities, programming languages, and text editors (to name a few). These are just some of the things you have at your fingertips when you use the VAX. "So how do I use it?" Read on, Macduff!

Let's say you just got your username. You're itching to use it, and you walk into the computer lab, ready to do this. How do you get onto the VAX? Just sit down at one of the terminals and type, right? Wrong. You have to log in. Logging in tells the computer who you are, and allows it to start running up your tab so it knows how much computer time you used. When you log in, you have to remember two things: your username and your password. Your username is a string of characters, which out here is a "PS" followed by your initials. My username is PSTLB, from **P**almer **S**tudent **T**heron **L.** **B**air. Faculty have an 'F' in place of the 'S', staff have an 'N' in place of it. (There are other types as well, but none you're likely to run into.) Your password, initially, will be your Social Security Number. You have to log on within 72 hours of Rick putting your account into the computer, or else you won't be able to and you'll have to have him reset it (it's really a pain to do that). To log on, just ask a lab aide (or look at the chart on the wall that shows you how...). So, you've logged on. Now you have to change your password (because your Social Security Number is just too easy to guess). To do that, just type SET PASSWORD at the $ prompt. It should look something like this:

```
$SET PASSWORD
Old_Password:
New_Password:
Verification:
```

Notice it didn't echo your passwords back. That's so no one can walk by and see what password you picked for your account. Now you're ready to explore the world via computer (but as I'm running out of space, you'll have to wait til next week...). Tune in next week, when we tell you what's in store!

NEXT WEEK: "IN STORE"!